

أَعُوذُ بِعِزَّتِكَ الَّذِي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ الَّذِي لَا يَمُوتُ وَالْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسُ يَمُوتُونَ

“I seek refuge, by your Glory, the One, whom there is no other god but You, the One who does not die, and the jinn and mankind do die.”

Concerning the length of their lives, we do not know much except what Allah has said concerning the accursed Satan who has been given respite and life until the Day of Judgment. Allah says,

قَالَ أَنْظِرْنِي إِلَى يَوْمٍ يُبْعَثُونَ ﴿١٤﴾ قَالَ إِنَّكَ مِنَ الْمُنظَرِينَ

“He said: Reprieve me till the day when they are raised (from the dead). He said: Lo! you are of those reprieved” (*Al-Asaaf* 14-15).

Concerning other jinn or devils, we do not know their lifespans. But we do know that their lifespans are longer than that of the humans.

Further evidence that they do die is the report that Khaalid ibn Waleed killed the devil of al-Uza (a tree that the Arabs used to worship). And a Companion killed a jinn that took the shape of a serpent, as shall be discussed later.

## The residence of the jinn and their places and the times that they can be found

The jinn live upon the same earth as humans do. Most of them can be found among the ruins and dilapidated areas, as well as the places where there are many impure things, such as, bathrooms, hashish dens, the places of the camels, cemeteries. For that reason, as Ibn Taimiya said, those people who are close to Satan usually inhabit such areas. There are hadith that say that one should not pray in bathrooms due to the impurities present and because it is the abode of Satan, or in cemeteries as this leads to polytheism and it is also a home for the devils.

Many of them are in the places which may be sources of evil, such as the marketplaces. The Prophet (peace be upon him) gave the following advice to one of his Companions,

لَا تَكُونَنَّ إِنْ اسْتَطَعْتَ أَوَّلَ مَنْ يَدْخُلُ السُّوقَ وَلَا آخِرَ مَنْ يَخْرُجُ مِنْهَا  
فَإِنَّهَا مَعْرَكَةُ الشَّيْطَانِ وَبِهَا يَنْصِبُ رَايَتَهُ

“If you can, do not be the first one to enter the marketplace. And do not be the last to leave it. For they are the places of Satan and therein he raises his banner.” This hadith was recorded in *Sahih Muslim*.

The devils live in the same houses in which people live. One can stop them from entering or repel them from such houses by mentioning Allah upon entering those houses, by remembering or mentioning Allah (Ar., *dhikr*), reciting the Quran, in particular, *surah al-Baqara* and “the verse of the Throne” (verse 255 of that *surah*). The Prophet (peace be upon him) stated that the devils spread out and roam about increasingly when the dark first comes, and, therefore, he has advised Muslims to bring in their children during that period of time. This is stated in a hadith that was recorded by both AI-Bukhari and Muslim.

And the devils run away from the call to prayer and cannot stand listening to it. And in the month of Ramadhaan they are chained.

## **The places where the devils sit or gather**

The devils love to sit between the shade and the sunlight. For this reason the Prophet (peace be upon him) forbade the Muslims to sit in such places. This hadith was recorded in the books of *Sunan* and other works and it is *sahih*.

## **The animals of the jinn**

In the hadith of Ibn Masud, recorded in *Sahih Muslim*, the jinn asked the Prophet about their provisions. He told them, “Every bone on which the name of Allah is recited is your provision. The time it will fall

in your hand it would be covered with flesh. And the dung of (the camels) is fodder for your animals.” Thus the Prophet (peace be upon him) has informed us that they possess animals and that the fodder for their animals is the dung of the animals of mankind.

## Specific animals that the devils accompany

The devils accompany some animals, such as camels. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said,

إِنَّ الْإِبِلَ خَلَقَتْ مِنَ الشَّيَاطِينِ وَإِنْ وَرَاءَ بَعِيرٍ شَيْطَانًا

“Verily the camel has been created from devils. And behind every camel is a devil.”<sup>1</sup> For this reason, the Prophet (peace be upon him) has prohibited us from praying in the pastures of the camels. It is recorded in *Musnad Ahmad* and *Sunan Abu Dawud* that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said,

لَا تَصَلُّوا فِي مَبَارِكِ الْإِبِلِ فَإِنَّهَا مِنَ الشَّيَاطِينِ وَصَلُّوا فِي مَرَابِضِ الْغَنَمِ  
فَإِنَّهَا بَرَكَةٌ

“Do not pray in the pastures of the camels, for they are from the devils. But pray in the fields of the sheep, for they are blessed.”<sup>2</sup> Ibn Majah recorded in his *Sunan*, with a *sahih* chain,

لَا تُصَلُّوا فِي أَعْطَانِ الْإِبِلِ فَإِنَّهَا خُلِقَتْ مِنَ الشَّيَاطِينِ

“Do not pray in the resting places’ of the camels [that they go to after being] watered, for they have been created from the devils.” These

<sup>1</sup> This was recorded by Saeed ibn Mansoor in his *Sunan* with a *mursal hasan* chain. See *Sahih al-Jaami*, vol. 2, p. 25.

<sup>2</sup> This translator could not find all of this as one statement as in the text. Instead, the Prophet (peace be upon him), as recorded in the referred to works, was asked about praying in the camel pastures and in the fields of sheep and he responded to each question separately. Allah knows best.—JZ

hadith refute the claims of those who state that the reason it is forbidden to pray in the places of the camels is that their urine and dung are impure. Actually, the urine and the dung of any animal that is permissible to eat is not considered impure.

## The ugliness of Satan

Satan has a very ugly appearance. This is something well-accepted by the mind. Allah compares the branches of the tree of Zuqqum in Hell to the heads of the devils. Allah says,

إِنَّهَا شَجَرَةٌ تَخْرُجُ فِي أَصْلِ الْجَحِيمِ ﴿١٦﴾ طَلْعُهَا كَأَنَّهُ رُءُوسُ الشَّيَاطِينِ

“Is it better as a welcome, or the tree of Zaqqum? Lo! We have appointed it a torment for wrong-doers. Lo! It is a tree that springs in the heart of hell. Its crop is as it were the heads of the devils” (*al-Saaffaat* 62-65).

Christians of the Middle Ages used to picture Satan as a black man with a pointed beard, raised eyebrows, a mouth that emits flames, horns and hoofs and a tail.’

## Satan has two horns

In *Sahih Muslim*, it is recorded from Ibn Umar that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said,

لَا تَحَرَّوْا بِصَلَاتِكُمْ طُلُوعَ الشَّمْسِ وَلَا غُرُوبَهَا فَإِنَّهَا تَطْلُعُ بِقَرْنَيْ شَيْطَانٍ

<sup>1</sup> See *Dairat al-Maarif al-Haditha*, p. 357.